

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what steps the Government proposes to take if the items manufactured in America are cheaper in the international market than those manufactured in India as it will affect the market of Indian goods? How the Government will determine the prices of goods manufactured in collaboration with American companies and how Government will put restrictions on them so that the Indian goods remain competitive in the international market?

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, even if the items manufactured in America are cheaper than those manufactured in India, that will not affect us. It is because we have a negative list which includes most of the consumer goods which cannot be imported. So, they will not affect us. With regard to the proposals of joint collaboration with America or any other country, whether manufacturing takes places in our country or not, our intention is to reduce the cost of production. That is what we are aiming at and that is what we want to do. Unless we reduce the cost of production, how can our goods be competitive in the world market? We want to export and we want to earn foreign exchange and the only way for that is to reduce the cost of production by getting technology wherever it is possible and suitable for us. Therefore, our intention is to reduce the cost of production. The cost of production in the joint ventures of any other project is reduced. That is a good sign and that is what we want.

SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI: As per the statement made by the hon. Minister, it is clear that 220 proposals have been accepted for foreign collaboration with American companies.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the equity ratio of such companies. I want to know whether such foreign companies will be functioning as subsidiary or holding companies. If certain companies

will be declared as holding companies, will they be controlling the entire management and pricing system?

MR. SPEAKER: It is already there in the answer.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I can answer him with regard to equity ratio.

Out of the 220 proposals, some are cleared through RBI route. These proposals get automatic clearance if they are in Annexure III list. All of them carry upto 51 per cent equity. Others are cleared by SIA and FIPB on merit. Some of them carry more than 51 per cent of equity and some carry less. Out of these 220 proposals, 79 are financial investment proposals and the total foreign equity approved in these cases is just a little above Rs. 390 crore.

Demand and Supply of Essential Commodities

*806. **SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made an assessment of the annual demand and supply of essential commodities under the new Public Distribution System;

(b) whether the essential commodities have been supplied as per the requirement of consumers; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

According to estimates worked out by this Ministry about 18 million tonnes of food grains (Rice & Wheat) would be required to sustain the Public Distribution System (PDS)

throughout the country including the areas identified for revamped PDS. The additional requirement in the identified areas of 1700 Block under the revamped PDS would be about 3 million MTs. Actual allocations of foodgrains would however, be made on a month to month basis taking into account the demand from the States/UTs., availability in the Central Pool, relative needs of the various States and seasonal availability. The amount of levy sugar required would be on the basis 425 gms. per capita monthly availability to the projected population as on 1.10.1986. A 5% ad-hoc increase in levy sugar allocations is being given from August, 1991. Supply of other essential commodities namely imported edible oil and kerosene are dependent on the availability and prices of these items in the international markets and the foreign exchange availability for imports.

Allocation of PDS commodities is supplemental in nature and is not intended to meet the entire requirements of States/UTs. Efforts are made to meet the genuine requirements projected by the State Governments and UT Administrations.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was quite a memorable day for Rajasthan when the Hon. Prime Minister inaugurated the revamped Public Distribution System, with much fan fare in district Barmer in the State. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the total quantity of rice and wheat supplied to Rajasthan as against the demand of the State? Rajasthan's total requirement of wheat and rice is 4 lakh tonnes and against it only 75,000 tonnes has been supplied i.e. 20 per cent of requirement. Therefore, I would like to know the total quantity of wheat and rice being supplied to Rajasthan as against its demand?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: It is a fact that revamped PDS has been launched in Barmer. We are making additional allocations to Rajasthan as per the details supplied

by the Rajasthan Government regarding the requirements of Blocks identified under the 'Desert Development Area'. However, generally the annual requirement of Rajasthan is of 9,57,000 tonnes of wheat and 4,42,000 tonnes of rice.

SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would also like to know from the hon. Minister the total buffer stock available with the Government and the number of months for which it will be sufficient in view of the demand of consumers in the country? And, if this stock is inadequate to meet the demand of consumers, steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: I assure you that buffer stock position is very satisfactory and there is no cause of any concern.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know whether all the demands made by consumer Forums of all the states, in the meeting of which MPs also participate as their Members, will be met, as the hon. Minister has stated the stock position is quite satisfactory?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is exactly what he has said just one minute before.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: If you are specifically asking about Bihar, then I am ready to give reply.

MR. SPEAKER: If you are prepared to give reply, say, yes.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Supplies are being made as per the demands of the States and also in accordance with the formula prepared for making the annual supplies.